

	<p>Illinois Small Business Development Center Network</p> <h1>WEEKLY CONNECTION</h1> <p>Entrepreneurship ~ Innovation ~ Technology</p>	
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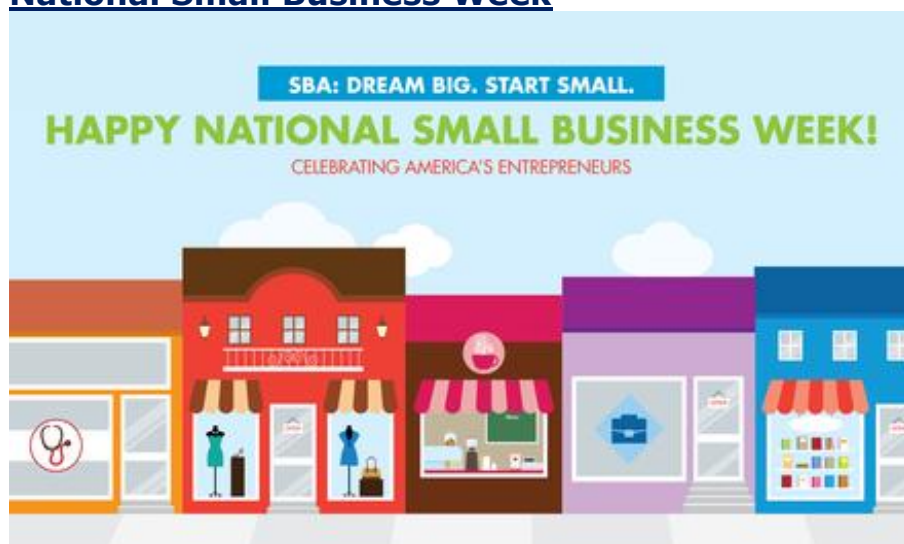
*"Professional Guidance for Business Growth"*

## May 4, 2015

**In Today's Weekly Connection:**

- + **Happy National Small Business Week**
- + **Spotlight on Success – The Chef & The Baker**
- + **Maximizing Neoserra – Collecting Economic Impact**
- + **Valued Resources – Websites to Keep You Up to Date**
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### National Small Business Week



### Spotlight on Success – The Chef & The Baker

Businesses are leaving the state, a story we've heard before. But a national article says those in central Illinois shouldn't start packing their bags. Nerdwallet.com ranked the best places across the country to start a business, and rounding out the top ten: Peoria.

"As in the culinary industry, it's either feast or famine, you're busy or slow," Ian Hocker, owner of The Chef & The Baker, said. And if Wednesday's lunch rush was any indication, The Chef & The Baker is anything but slow. The restaurant is in the East Bluff, and it's literally your mom and pops' shop or more accurately, "A mom and pops and son place," Hocker said.

The year-old business was mentioned in a Nerd Wallet article, claiming Peoria as the tenth best city to start a business. "Just to be featured in, I guess, a national sense, is just very overwhelming," he said.

Less overwhelming was opening the restaurant. "It is tedious and time-consuming and there's laws and bylaws and permits and this and that, but as a whole, it's not a daunting as one may seem," he said.

But The Chef & The Baker is just one example of a successful small business in the river city. "Right now, the entrepreneurial ecosystem is just flourishing," the Small Business Center Director Ross Miller said. With Caterpillar staying in Peoria and the Warehouse District construction underway, "The new landscape of the downtown is really going to change people's attitudes towards where to local their business," Miller said.

And the people of Peoria are getting behind this new normal. "I think the community is supporting our local businesses a lot more," he said. "We've had a lot of support from the East Bluff Neighborhood Association. We leave here in the Bluff only a couple blocks away," Hocker added.

But it's not just The Chef & The Baker and Peoria making moves. "With everything that's going on in East Peoria with the Levy District and down in Pekin and different things, it's really the whole community," Miller said.

This story appeared on [www.centralillinoisproud.com](http://www.centralillinoisproud.com)

### **Maximizing Neoserra – Collecting Economic Impact**

Please remember that the National Impact Survey recently sent to clients does NOT automatically upload data to Neoserra. The SBDC Lead Center will send our next Economic Impact Survey in June. You are encouraged NOT to rely on this method alone to collect this data. Please continue to collect impact data from your clients and manually input it into Neoserra.

### **Valued Resources – Websites to Keep You Up to Date**

Keeping things fresh, relevant and up to date starts between your ears! It's an attitude and a decision that we cultivate and must practice regularly. Shown below are several websites that can provide you with the latest information and help you stay up to date.

- [Small Business Trends](#)
- [Mashable](#)
- [Smartbrief](#)
- [Trendwatching](#)
- [Forbes](#)
- [SBA.gov](#)
- [HBR \(Harvard Business Review\)](#)
- [Wall Street Journal](#)
- [MarketingProfs](#)
- [Careerealism](#)
- [Entrepreneur](#)
- [New York Times](#)

### **Network News and Moves - EXIM Digital Outreach**

EXIM Digital Outreach - EXIM Bank is trying a number of new tactics to build awareness and educate small business, primarily through digital outreach including new videos, eBooks,

infographics, and blog posts. Below you will find several links that will allow you to download and preview the new content recently developed.

New Small Business Collateral:

- <http://grow.exim.gov/blog> - Export Finance Solutions, EXIM's Official Blog
- <http://grow.exim.gov/eci-ebook> - Export Credit Insurance eBook
- <http://grow.exim.gov/capital-grow> - Working Capital Loan Guarantee How it Works Video and Case Study
- <http://grow.exim.gov/export-expertise> - Export Expertise, 10 Finance Tools to Grow Your Export Business
- <http://grow.exim.gov/export-credit-insurance-video> - Export Credit Insurance, How it Works Video
- <http://grow.exim.gov/working-capital-ebook> -Working Capital Loan Guarantee eBook
- <http://grow.exim.gov/finance-guide> -Trade Finance Guide, from the U.S. Dept of Commerce

### **America's SBDC Network Connect**

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to access the latest issue of [America's SBDC Network Connect Newsletter](#). In this issue you will find a link to the conference page for the 2015 America's SBDC Annual Conference – Gateway to Small Business Success, to be held in San Francisco. Conference registration opened on Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>.

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The **WEEKLY CONNECTION** is distributed by the Illinois SBDC and DCEO Office of Entrepreneurship, Innovation & Technology each Monday to members of the DCEO Illinois SBDC Network to provide the service delivery partners with regular updates on small business issues, opportunities and resources. You may send any information to share with the Illinois SBDC Network to [Tom.Becker@illinois.gov](mailto:Tom.Becker@illinois.gov). Please feel free to forward this update to other interested resource providers and key stakeholders.

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